The status of the Philippines was determined by the United States Supreme Court in nearly evenly divided decisions in what are known as the Insular Cases. In popular phrase the high Court ruled that the American Constitution had not followed the flag to the Philippines. Practically speaking, the doctrine has proved no handicap, for the Philippine Government is closely patterned after American institutions. And excepting the right to trial by jury, which was withheld because deemed unsuitable to conditions in the Islands, all of the important provisions of the American Bill of Rights were extended to the Philippines.

For nearly four decades the American emblem has floated in Philippine breezes. In a few years the flag will be hauled down for the last time. But when that act occurs, it will not be because the United States is compelled to do so, but because of American altruism and respect for the aspirations of the Filipinos to be free. As for the Constitution of the United States, it has influenced Philippine policy and invariably for the better. Let us hope that it will continue to do so for long years to come.